

AmeriCorps

At the CARITAS AmeriCorps Program in Richmond, AmeriCorps members provide intensive job-readiness training to men with significant barriers to employment such as homelessness, addiction, felony convictions. Of those who complete the program, 76 percent are employed within one year. AmeriCorps members mentor men on a pathway to recovery from addiction; and more than 65 percent of program participants continue their sobriety one year out. AmeriCorps members also refurbish and distribute furniture and household goods to those moving from shelters to permanent housing, outfitting more than 800 families with essential items each year. To engage the community and create sustainability, CARITAS has a vibrant volunteer recruitment program; AmeriCorps members recruit and serve with approximately 1,000 volunteers annually.

AmeriCorps NCCC

An AmeriCorps NCCC team worked with the Local Energy Alliance Program in Charlottesville. The team educated more than 1,200 community members, conducted more than 170 Energy Savvy Surveys, canvassed 5,085 homes, and completed 81 energy reviews. Those who took part in the program received a free home review valued at \$500. The review suggested ways the homeowner could lower their energy costs. AmeriCorps NCCC members gained public speaking skills and learned methods to make homes energy efficient.

AmeriCorps VISTA

The Advancement Foundation, an AmeriCorps VISTA intermediary in Vinton, provides development services to nonprofits in Southwest Virginia. AmeriCorps VISTA members serve with a number of small organizations to develop fundraising capacities. An AmeriCorps VISTA member at God's Storehouse in Danville obtained a \$30,000 grant from Wal-Mart to provide food to individuals with limited resources and assist in healthy lifestyle classes. Several VISTAs have developed mobile food pantry programs at the Southwest Virginia Feeding America site to serve the surrounding rural low-income communities. Using her grant writing skills and creative networking talents, an AmeriCorps VISTA helped secure \$60,000 from the Buchanan County Board of Supervisors to support four mobile food pantries throughout the rural county for one year.

Senior Corps

New River Valley Agency on Aging has sponsored the Pulaski County RSVP Program for more than 20 years. Almost 180 RSVP volunteers serve the rural communities in the Southwest Virginia foothills of the Appalachian Mountains. These volunteers prepare and/or serve more than 26,500 meals annually with the Pulaski Daily Bread site. They also provide home assistance and companionship to 225 seniors and make daily telephone calls to 125 homebound seniors. As a major sponsor of the Regional Caregivers Conference, Pulaski County RSVP grew the once half day session into a full 2-day conference featuring nationally renowned presenters/speakers for 200 professional and family caregivers.

Social Innovation Fund

The Dan River Region Collaborative (DRRC) serves a three-county, two-city rural area in south central Virginia including Danville and Pittsylvania counties and has been awarded \$300,000 over two years by Social Innovation Fund (SIF) intermediary Jobs for the Future. They will match their award dollar-for-dollar with nonfederal funds. DRRC supports three workforce partnerships in the fields of advanced manufacturing, energy and health care. The SIF award will allow DRRC to scale up successful strategies, extend their geographic footprint into Patrick County and potentially partner with border counties in North Carolina. In addition, DRRC will explore the creation of an information technology partnership to serve the growing number of businesses taking advantage of the region's investment in an 800+ mile fiber optic broadband network. They plan to serve 200 job seekers and 500 incumbent workers.